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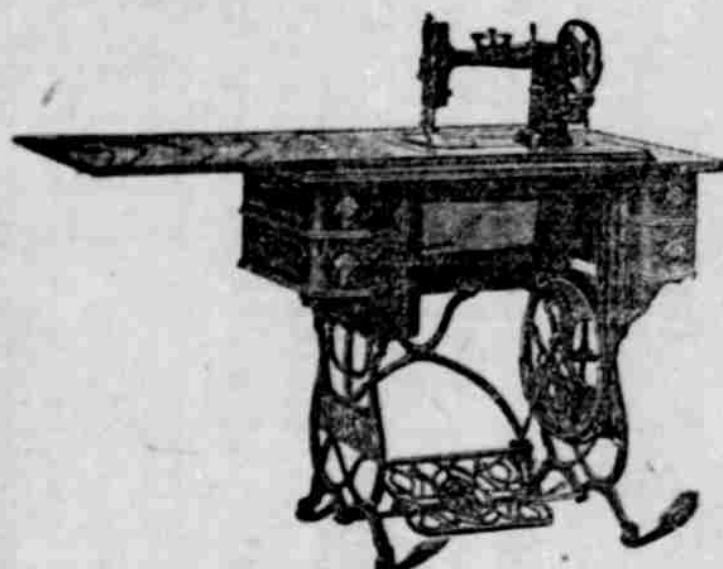
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ASADA & CO.

HOTEL STREET.

GOSSIP OF WASHINGTON

(Continued from Page 1.)

ing to prey upon the wounded and the dead.

PLACED IN A POORHOUSE.

The poisoned exhalations from the field, for the bodies remained long unburied, aggravated the condition of the prisoners, and Captain Ricketts hovered between life and death. At the end of two weeks gangrene forced his departure, and with him a number of comrades he was conveyed in a box car to Richmond, Colonel Jordan, General Beauregard's Adjutant, attending personally to his comfortable placing for the journey. Upon his arrival he was assigned to the poorhouse, used as the prison hospital, where Mrs. Ricketts, occupying a ward with five other officers and separated from them, only by a blanket shawl hung across an angle of the wall, attended him. The prison fare consisted of bread and rye coffee for breakfast and supper, with bread and meat and the greasy liquid in which the latter was boiled for dinner. It was served to them standing two men passing along the line, one of whom carried a basket of provisions, while the other followed with bucket and tin cup. The prisoners were objects of great interest to the townspeople, who came in parties to see each new consignment.

A FRIEND IN NEED.

"I had no change of clothing," Mrs. Ricketts says, "and was obliged to wash one piece at a time, and, having rested it, to carry the next through the same process, a feature of my situation which so appealed to a beautiful young creature who visited the hospital soon after our arrival, that she shed tears as she repeated: 'Only this one dress.'"

In a few days she came again, bringing concealed about her a bundle which she slipped under my cot. It proved to be a wrapper, and folded in with it was a roasted chicken and a loaf of bread, delicacies very grateful to the invalids able to enjoy them."

A short time after this an order forbidding citizens to come to the prison was issued, and the visits of Mrs. Ricketts' new friend came suddenly to an end. Aged by the surgeon in charge of the hospital, Dr. Charles Gibson, of Philadelphia, who, having married a Virginian, had settled in Richmond, she sent her, on each recurring Sunday, a basket of provisions sufficient to save the inmates of the ward for the remainder of the week. A peculiarity of the contents, at which Mrs. Ricketts marveled, was that each article was partially consumed. The breast would be cut from the fowl, a bottle of sauce would be half gone, and so on through the whole.

THE STORY OF HER LIFE.

Meanwhile the days ran into weeks, and the weeks into months. Toward the close of the stay, while awaiting the amputation of his leg, Captain Ricketts was one of the number designated to be drawn by lot as hostages for the Confederate privateers imprisoned in New York. His wounds, together with the presence of his wife, had excited great sympathy in the prison, and when his name was drawn, Captain Thomas Cox of Kentucky nobly offered to take his place in solitary confinement. The exchange of prisoners was not recognized, however, and through powerful influence, after a confinement of more than six months, they were released.

On the evening before their departure Dr. Gibson came to Mrs. Ricketts, saying that the lady who had shown her so much kindness wished to see her again, and that he had arranged a meeting for them at midnight. At the appointed hour she came, therefore.

"As she approached me," Mrs. Ricketts says, "she fell on her knees at my feet and burying her face in my lap sobbed convulsively. She had with her a box of jewelry which she wished me to give to her daughter in New York, for her daughter, her husband and her mother lived in that city, and brokenly and with bitter weeping she told me the story of her life."

A few years after her marriage she had met at Cape May a certain Southerner—handsome, fascinating and unscrupulous. Attracted by her beauty, he sought her, and she in turn became infatuated with him, the result being that, forgetting every tie, she fled with him to his home in Kentucky, where a gambling establishment known as "The Saturday Night Club," and in an instant the mystery of the partially consumed provisions sent to the prison every Sunday was explained. They were the remains of the feast spread on the evening before for those who frequented the club."

THE END OF HER ROMANCE.

After prolonged suffering, Captain Ricketts, as brigadier general, returned to the field his wife being constantly with him in camp except when a battle was imminent. During all this time their house in Washington was open, not only to wounded officers, but to privates as well. It was there that General Augur was nursed back to health, and the gauzy Kirby, to whom Mrs. Ricketts ministered with a sister's tenderness, died. She was untiring in her attentions to the sick, visiting the hospitals with home-made ointments, and frequently remaining all night with the dying, impersonating wife, mother or sister for the comfort of the delirious sufferers.

At the battle of Winchester General Ricketts received what ultimately proved his death wound, but his wonderful will power enabled him to be present at the fall of Richmond. While there a Catholic priest came to him one evening saying a woman in great destitution and dying of consumption wished to entrust a message to him for friends in New York. The whispered name revealed her as the same who had visited them at Libby prison nearly four years before, and together they hastened to her side.

It was too late. Deserted by the man for whom she had sacrificed so much, she had passed away, and, slipping into the hands of the priest all that she would ever again need, General Ricketts turned from the melancholy spot.

SOUVENIRS OF THE WAR.

During the war society held no court at the national capital, but from the first administration of General Grant through that of President Arthur, Mrs. Ricketts' house was the rendezvous for army officers, and her Friday evening receptions, attended by Senators, members of Congress and the diplomatic corps, together with all distinguished visitors to the city, are still brilliant memories. She has numbers of souvenirs of her life at Libby prison, among them being rings and other ornaments made by the prisoners from the bones of the meat served to them at their midday meal. Another valuable souvenir is the seal of the Confederacy, given to General Ricketts by a Southern officer whom he aided, and a duplicate of which, presented by General Grant, is a circular gold medal, upon which is an equestrian statue of Washington, surrounded by a wreath of cotton and tobacco plant and other Southern products, and bearing the date "February 22, 1862," with the motto, "Deo Vincit."

Her most cherished memento of the period, however, is a lock of Lincoln's

hair, cut on the night of his assassination.

Mrs. Ricketts has two children. Her son, who as sergeant of the Rough Riders, was with Roosevelt during the late war, was severely wounded in the thigh. Her daughter, the wife of Dr. Chauncey R. Burr of the navy, and long a resident of San Jose, Cal., is now living on Puget Sound.

GILBERTA S. WHITTLE.

CENSUS RETURNS

NEARLY COMPLETE

Those of Honolulu Go to Washington Next Week.

On the America Maru next week the census returns of Honolulu will be sent to Washington, and as Director Merriam has promised to put a set of men to work on them immediately, it is likely that it will not be long before the results of the city census are known.

Of the 110 enumerators on the Islands all but eighteen have made returns of their books and the delinquents are expected to have their returns ready within the next few days, so it will not be long before the census bureau completes its work here. But G. L. Bigelow, who has had immediate charge of the work, will have considerable work on his hands for some time to come, as he has still the task of making complete returns of the sugar and manufacturing industries for the Islands and this will occupy him for a long period, for he expects to have to make a tour of the entire group in the progress of the work.

The city canvass has been done with unusual thoroughness, as was demonstrated by an incident that occurred yesterday. A report came to Mr. Bigelow that a man was circulating the statement about official circles that a district on the Ewa side of Kamehameha road had been very imperfectly canvassed and that there were a couple of hundred people whose names had not been secured. Mr. Bigelow did not believe the statement, but in order that there might be no doubt of the matter, he sent a man who has been one of his best enumerators to cover the district. This man went over the entire district and found but seven people who had not been on the lists of the enumerator who covered the district in June, and these were mostly people who had moved in since that time.

SWEET AMY ROBSART

LIVES AGAIN TONIGHT

This evening the Neill company will present the four-act romantic drama, "Amy Robsart." The play is a dramatization of Scott's novel, "Kenilworth," and in general follows very closely the story of the book, although the characters of Michael Lambourne and Wayland Smith in the novel are merged in the one character of Wayland Lambourne in the play. The Countess Amy in the play is not murdered, but instead, the villain, Richard Varney, is hurried to death through the trap which he had designed for his victim.

The scene opens in the tavern of old Giles Goslin, where Lambourne on a drunken wager, proposes to discover the secret of Conner Castle and the mysterious prisoner. The second scene is laid in Conner Castle, and where Edward Tressilian, who has accompanied Lambourne finds his former sweetheart, Amy Robsart, for whom he has been searching, kept there in seclusion by the Earl of Leicester, to whom she is secretly married. Then comes the sudden arrival of Richard Varney, his quarrel and duel with Tressilian, and the flight of the latter, Leicester's arrival and interview with Amy, his hasty departure when Varney warns him of his danger; Varney's attack on Amy and her rescue by Lambourne. The close of the first act finds Tressilian on his way to the home of Sir Hugh Robsart, Amy's father, and Leicester hastening to the court of Queen Elizabeth to parry the attack which he knows is sure to come.

The second act opens in Queen Elizabeth's throne room. Tressilian who believes that Varney is the villain who has wronged Amy, has made a charge to this effect to the queen. Varney, to prevent the exposure of his master's marriage, pleads guilty. His cunning flattery wins his forgiveness by the queen, but places Leicester in the position of being a favored suitor for the hand of his sovereign. In this position the Earl dares not avow his marriage to another; to avoid exposure Varney plots to poison Amy. The second scene shows the old inn, where Tressilian is planning to rescue Amy. In the third scene Varney forces Amy to take poison; he has prepared, and flees to Leicester's castle of Kenilworth. Amy's life is saved by an antidote which Lambourne, disguised as a peddler, induces her to take. The fourth scene shows the postern gate by moonlight, and Amy's flight to Kenilworth.

The third act shows the Earl of Leicester's castle of Kenilworth with Queen Elizabeth and all her train on a visit to the Earl; he has arranged a royal reception for his sovereign.

The fourth act shows Amy in Varney's power at Conner castle, his flimsy plot for her destruction, Leicester's timely arrival and Varney's terrible death. The play ends with Amy safe in her husband's arms, her trials are at an end, acknowledged before all the world as the Countess of Leicester, his lawful wife.

Mr. James Neill as Leicester, is said to present a finished, courtly interpretation. Handsome, graceful and distinguished, he adds another to his long list of triumphs.

As a scenic production "Amy Robsart" is said to rank as one of the best the Neill company has ever presented. The old inn, the interior of Conner Castle, the throne room of Queen Elizabeth, Kenilworth Castle, Conner Towers and the moonlight scene of the old postern gate are fine examples of scenic art.

About the time of the collapse of the Confederacy, ex-Senator Wigfall was crossing the Mississippi, making his way to Texas. He assumed the character of an ultra-Union man. On the ferry-boat with him was a Federal officer, with whom Wigfall got into conversation. The officer confided to him that he was chasing Wigfall. "If I fall in with the traitor, I'll hang him to the first tree." "Yes," vehemently remarked Wigfall, "and I will be pulling at one end."

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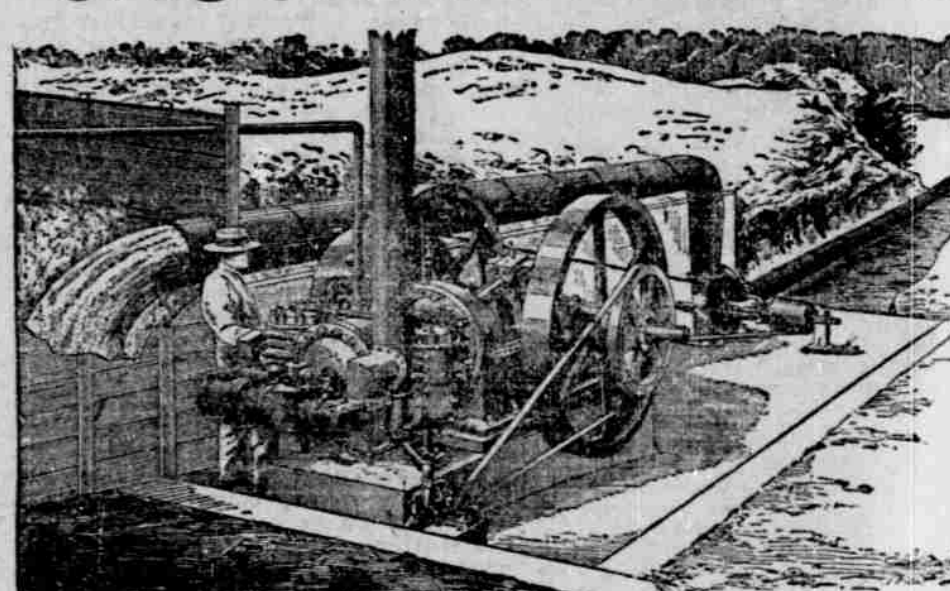


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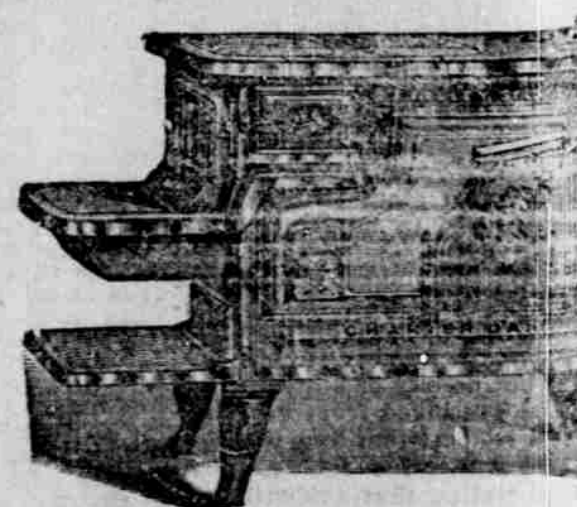
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